REMARKS

Claims 1-28 remain pending in the subject Application. In the Office Action dated 02/10/2003 ("Office Action"), claims 1-28 were rejected. In the amendment set forth above, the Specification and Claims 13, 14, 27, and 28 are amended to correct formality issues only, and the remaining Claims are unchanged. In view of the amendments set forth above, and the comments presented below, it is respectfully requested the rejections to the Claims have been overcome, and an Early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

ARGUMENTS

1.   Claims 1-28 are pending in the subject Application.

2.   The Drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include Figures 27A – 27C, which are not mentioned within the Specification. The above amendment to the Specification replaces every reference to "Figure 27" in the Specification with an appropriate reference to one of Figures 27A – 27C. With this amendment to the Specification, it is believed the Drawings are consistent with the Specification, and it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

3.   The Drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for failing to show "a plurality of selectable regions" as described in Claims 1 and 25. As discussed in a telephone interview with Examiner Robinson, these regions are shown in Applicants' Figure 5, which illustrates a number of user-selectable methods such as "sort", "search" and "compute" presented within various areas, or "regions", of the display screen. A user may select one of these display areas using any user-interface mechanism to thereby cause the associated method to be executed on the selected data object, which in the example of Figure 5 is the "SALES" data object. This functionality is described on page 9 lines 7-9 of Applicants' Specification. This description has been modified in the amendment set forth above to even more clearly describe that which is already shown in Figure 5. The description is modified using the original claim language of Claim 1, and no new matter has been entered. With this clarification, it is believed the Drawings and Specification meet the requirements of 37 CFR 1.83(a), and it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

4.   The drawings are objected to because textual labels are needed in Figure 23 for elements 11, 13, 15, 18, and 113. It is believed the labels already provided for elements 11-18 correspond with those described in Applicants' Specification. (See, for example, page 13 line 20.) However, element 113 was missing the appropriate label, and a marked up copy of Figure 23 is attached with a proposed amendment to the Drawings to add this label. The

Examiner's approval of this proposal is requested. It is respectfully submitted that with this amendment to the Drawing, Figure 23 meets the requirements of 37 CFR 1.84(p) and this objection should be withdrawn.

5.   The Specification is objected to as failing to provide the proper antecedent basis for claimed subject matter. The Examiner states that it is unclear whether the agent/messenger 117 is hardware or software, and further states that this term is referred to in the Specification and Claims using various terms including "agent/messenger software", "agent/messenger", and "agent/messenger code module".

Applicants' Specification describes the agent/messenger as software. This is discussed as follows:

> "According to the preferred embodiment, a software component including the graphical user interface to be displayed and the messenger/agent code 117 is transmitted to the special device 113." (Page 7 lines 5-7.)

This passage clearly states that code 117 is indeed software. The functionality of this software is described further in various portions of the Specification. (See, for example, the sentence bridging pages 6-7.)

The paragraph cited above appears to include a typographical error such that "messenger/agent code 117" should be replaced with "agent/messenger code module 117". This correction is made is the amendment set forth above. A further modification has been made to the Specification in the above amendment to clarify that "agent/messenger code module" is sometimes referred to as the "agent/messenger", as shown in Figure 1. In addition, Claims 13, 14, 27 and 28 have been amended to refer to an "agent/messenger" rather than "agent/messenger software". This is consistent with Figure 1 and the amended description in the Specification. With these changes, it is believed the Drawings, Specification, and Claims use consistent terminology, and it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

6.   Claims 1-22, and 27-28 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors had possession of the claimed invention.

With respect to Claims 1-12 and 25, it is said that the Specification does not disclose "a plurality of selection regions". As discussed above, this is shown in Figure 5 and discussed on page 9 of the Specification. Page 9 of the Specification has been amended to even further clarify this aspect of the invention, and no new matter has been entered. With this Amendment, it is respectfully requested that this rejection of Claims 1-12 and 25 be withdrawn.

In regards to Claims 13-22 and 27-28, the Examiner states that the term "agent/messenger software" does not appear in the Specification. Claims 13, 14, 27, and 28 have been amended to use the term "agent/messenger", which conforms to the labeling of Figure 1 and the description in the Specification. With these amendments, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

7.   Claims 1-12, 25, and 26 were rejected under 35 USC §112 second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

In regards to Claims 1 and 25, "said device" is said to lack antecedent basis. Claims 1 and 25 were amended in the amendment submitted 11/18/2002 to reference "said special device". With this change, it is believed Claims 1 and 25 satisfy the requirements of 35 USC § 112 second paragraph. It is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

In regards to Claim 26, this Claim is said to be unclear with respect to its base claims and the limitation regarding "said user selection". In the amendment submitted 11/18/2002, Claim 26 was amended to recite an apparatus rather than a method, and to utilize the term "user selection of a data object category", which finds an antecedent basis in Claim 24, from which Claim 26 depends. It is therefore believed Claim 26 satisfies the various requirements of 35 USC §112, and it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

8.   The subject application names joint inventors.   The Examiner's presumption regarding the ownership of the subject matter of the various Claims is correct.

9.   Claims 23, 24, and 26 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,603,034 to Swanson ("Swanson") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,169,991 to Tsukahara et al. ("Tsukahara") and U.S. Patent No. 5,414,809 to Hogan et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 23 includes means for executing a _sequence_ of _transactions_ on data. Each of the transactions of the sequence is based on the result of execution of a previous transaction. At least one of the transactions is executed upon data stored across a _plurality_ of remote storage locations.   None of the cited references teach this type of system for the following reasons:

a.)   Swanson does not teach means for executing _transactions_ upon data.

Applicants' Specification summarizes the manner in which a transaction is defined to invoke execution of a method on data stored within a data object. During execution of the method, data is manipulated in some manner to produce a result. (See, for example, Applicants' Specification page 3 lines 17-20, page 9 line 6 through page 10 line 22, and page 13 lines 26 through page 17.)

The Examiner states that Swanson teaches this limitation by disclosing user selection of resource category objects, along with a system that is responsive to user activation of the resource category selection object. (Office Action page 6, last paragraph.) Because the Examiner does not describe in detail how the system of Swanson teaches or suggests Applicants' invention of Claim 23, Applicants' Representative returns to the Examiner's citations regarding Swanson that were provided in the Office Action dated 8/16/2002 ("Previous Action") for discussion purposes.

In the Previous Action, the Examiner correlates the Swanson resource category selection object 920 of Figure 6 to Applicants' first graphical interface display, and the Swanson selectable resource category objects to Applicants' user selection of a data object

category. It follows, then, that the resulting display of resource descriptors in the Swanson window 940 of Figure 6 is considered analogous to Applicants' list of data objects available on the system. Therefore, the Swanson resource descriptor is analogous to Applicants' data object. Extending the Examiner's analogy, the selection object 970 appears to be correlated to Applicants' methods, since these fields provide the user with the only selectable mechanism for performing an operation on the Swanson resource descriptor. These correlations were discussed in the response to the Previous Action dated 11/18/2002. If any of these correlations are an incorrect understanding of the Examiner's arguments, clarification is respectfully requested.

Applying the foregoing correlations to Applicants' Claim 23, it can be appreciated that any Swanson "method" would correspond to what is provided by screen regions 960 or 970 of Figure 6. For example, a user is allowed to select a new color for the resource descriptor "bottom shadow color" using the "method" single screen region 970. However, this Swanson "method" is no more than a selection mechanism which allows the use to manually select a new value to be stored by the resource descriptor variable "bottom shadow color". This selection mechanism does not invoke any type of transaction, as that term in used in Applicants' Specification. That is, no execution is invoked that transforms or manipulates existing data to produce a result. Therefore, Swanson does not teach or suggest Applicants' "means for executing transactions", as claimed by Applicants' Claim 23. For at least this reason, Swanson does not teach Applicants' Clam 23.

b.)   Swanson does not teach means for executing *a sequence* of transactions on data, each of the transactions in the sequence being based on the result of execution of a previous transaction.

Claim 23 claims means for executing *a sequence* of transactions on data. This is described in Applicants' Specification page 9 lines 7-22, wherein an exemplary sequence of transactions includes sorting sales data, searching the sorted data for an order number, and then finally returning the results to the client. At each step in the sequence, the results of the previous transaction are utilized as the basis for executing the next transaction in the

sequence. Swanson does not appear to teach, or in any way suggest, this type of sequence of transactions. As noted above, at most, Swanson provides means for allowing a user to select a new value to be stored by a resource descriptor variable. There is no additional operation that may then be performed to modify, or in some way further manipulate, the resulting resource descriptor value. Thus, there is no *sequence* of transactions that may be selected or invoked for execution. For this additional reason, Swanson does not teach or suggest Applicants' Claim 23.

c.) Swanson does not teach means for executing a sequence of transactions on data such that at least one of the transactions is executed on data that is stored across a *plurality* of remote storage locations.

According to Applicants' invention as claimed in Claim 23, Applicants' data (i.e., data objects) may be distributed across a plurality of nodes. For example, Applicants' Figure 23 illustrates a plurality of nodes 11 through 17. Data may be located in any of these nodes. (Applicants' Specification page 11 lines 22-23.) When a transaction is executed, it is performed on this distributed data such that data on the multiple nodes is manipulated.

In contrast to Applicants' invention, the objects (resource descriptors) of Swanson are included within a single client application on a single system. Specifically, the Swanson resource editor is used to update the objects (resource descriptors) of an application (Swanson column 6 lines 56-58). This application, which is shown as application 110 of Figure 1, may be "...located at a remote platform, or within the data processing system 10..." (Swanson column 5 lines 50-51.) Thus it follows that the application's objects are also located either on the remote platform or on the data processing system 10. There is no teaching or suggestion what-so-ever within Swanson that the Swanson application, or any of the objects, is distributed across a plurality of remote storage locations. For at least this additional reason, Swanson does not teach or suggest Applicants' Claim 23, and it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Swanson does not teach or suggest Applicants' Claim 23. Moreover, neither Tsukahara nor Hogan appears to add anything to Swanson to

teach or suggest the above-described features of Applicants' Claim 23.   Therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn.

d.) There is no motivation to make the cited combination of references.

Claim 23 further includes the aspects of having a display screen providing point and touch interaction. The Examiner agrees that Swanson does not teach this type of interaction, but states that these aspects are taught by Tsukahara, which describes a client device with a display screen, and Hogan, which disclosed a touch screen.

Hogan describes a computer-based graphics interface for graphically illustrating data that has been retrieved from a database system. (See, for example, Hogan column 3 lines 5–7.)   Although Hogan describes one embodiment of a graphical user interface, it does not appear that Hogan describes any type of general-purpose editor for editing such an interface. Thus, Swanson and Hogan are targeted at solving completely different problems.

Next, Tsukahara is considered. Tsukahara describes a client server system that can be coupled to multiple client machine devices. Each client machine device executes a database data generation task and a database data processing task which each corresponds to a different function.   When a workload concentration state exists in a first client machine device, another client machine device is caused to execute the function that originally was the responsibility of the first device. (Tsukahara Abstract and column 3.)

Applicants' Representative respectfully maintains that there is no motivation to combine any teachings of the Tsukahara client/server system with the resource editor of Swanson, or the graphics interface of Hogan. All three references solve entirely different problems in entirely different ways.   For at least this additional reason, this rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Claim 24 depends from Claim 23, and is allowable over this rejection for at least the reasons discussed above in regards to Claim 23.

Claim 26 depends from Claim 24, and is allowable over this rejection for at least the reasons discussed above in reference to Claim 24.

10.   The responses to Applicants' arguments are appreciated.   Further, Applicants' Representative appreciates the Examiner's time in conducting the telephone interview of May 2 to discuss the various rejections and objections of the Office Action. It is believed the above-described amendments conform to that which was discussed in that interview.

11.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon has been reviewed and is considered to be of general interest only.

Conclusion

Claims 1-28 remain pending in the subject Application. In the Office Action dated 2/10/2003, claims 1-28 were rejected. In the amendment set forth above, Claims 13, 14, 27, and 28 are amended to correct formality issues only. The remaining Claims are unchanged. In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, it is believed the objections and rejections to the Claims and Specification have been overcome, and an Early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has questions or concerns about this correspondence, a call to the undersigned is encouraged and welcomed.
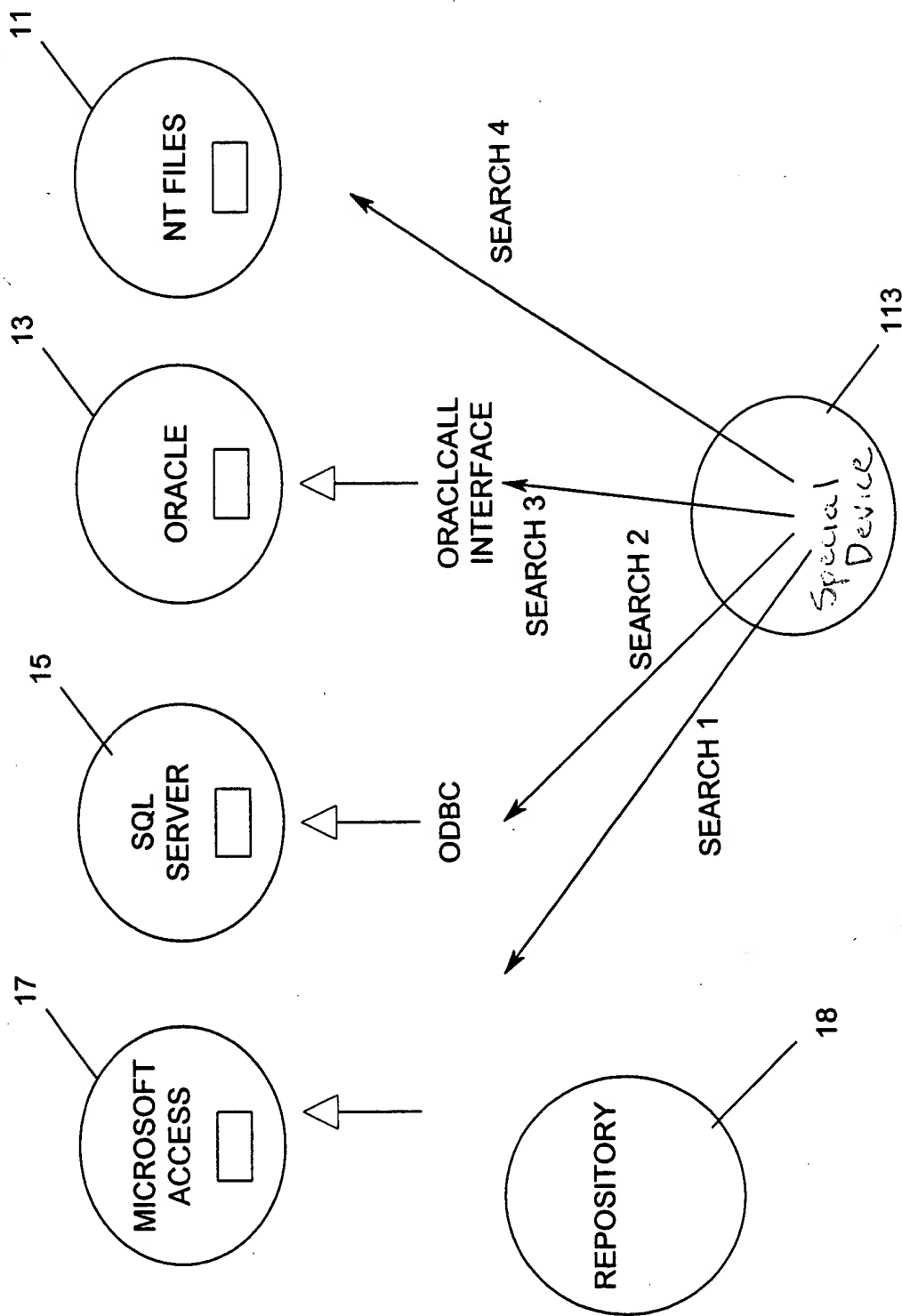
Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on May 7, 2003.

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May 7, 2003

FIG. 23